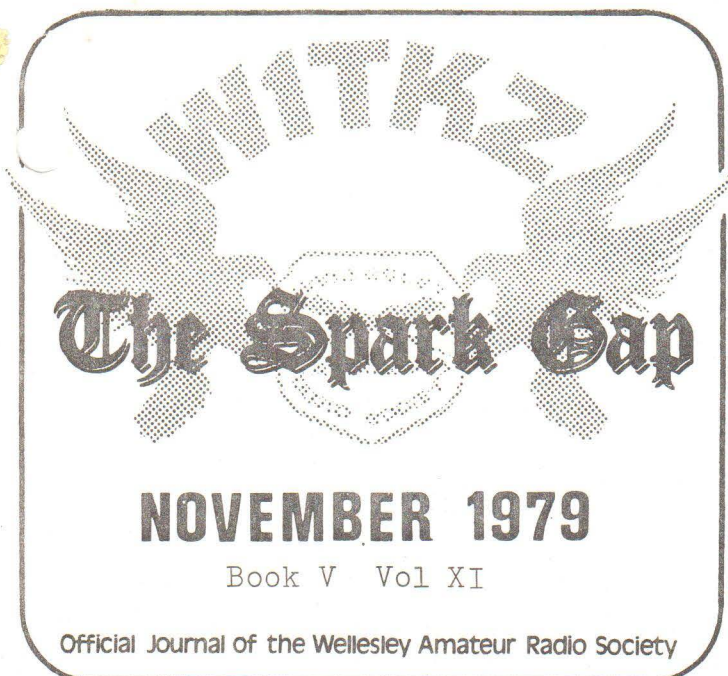




Our first annual flea market went off Saturday October 13 despite some less than perfect weather. Some 40 sellers appeared and over 250 buyers poked around through the many items offered for sale. Despite a problem with the owner of the shopping center which forced us to close earlier than planned, we made out very well, and even exceeded the profit planned for this event in the budget.

The club even managed to pick up a few items, at no cost to the treasury. A 24 hour digital clock was picked up for the new station console, and a group of five dedicated VHF contesters picked up a 432 MHz CW and AM transmitter, receive converter, and antenna set up for use in the VHF contests in upcoming years.

Thanks go out to Heathkit for providing a Novice class licensing course and a General class licensing course for door prizes, and to Papa Gino's for providing pizza certificates also for door prizes.

All in all, a very successful and enjoyable day for all in attendance.

The new W1TKZ station located in the basement near the main club meeting room is nearing completion thanks to the hard work of Dick Paret, 1ZLQ, and C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, and a crew of others. The console fits nicely into the new room with access possible to the back of the

rigs. Part of the room is paneled and looks very nice. If you haven't had a chance to see the new location of W1TKZ, stop by and take a look at the next meeting.

It has been suggested that the Natick Mall Message Fair be changed somewhat this year. Since even the best activity can lose some interest over the years, it is being considered that the Natick Mall event be made more of an Amateur Radio demonstration rather than just a message fair, though traffic will still be handled. If you have unusual capabilities at your station, such as RTTY, television, etc., you are just the person we need to help pull this idea off. Though the event is still some time off, if we are to pull this idea off quite a bit of time will be required. If you have any ideas on this, or if you have some equipment for display or demonstration please contact one of the club officers!

## **Dues Dues Dues...**

Yes, it's that time of year again. This year's budget was approved at the September 20th meeting setting the dues for the upcoming year at \$8.00, and \$2.00 for family members (those at the same address as a regular member who do not receive a Spark Gap). You will notice this is an increase over last year. The increase is due to the large rise in the club's expenses, mainly due to the fact that we previously had the Spark Gap printed for free and now have to pay for it. Also, the purchase of the repeater presents a new expense, and of course inflation has hit the other areas. The complete budget is available at the meetings for your inspection.

The new constitution requires the payment of dues 30 days after the passing of the budget, so please get them in. Send your \$8.00 to the club treasurer, Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, 46 Hobson Street, Brighton, Mass. 02135.

### **MEETINGS THIS MONTH:**

November 1, 1979 at 7:30 p.m.

November 15, 1979 at 7:30 p.m.

**Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.**



# profiles

By George Young, WA1YAU

This month, profiles looks at Howard Chick, WB1ECG.

Howard has been interested in radios all his life, he even went to Massachusetts Radio School at one point, but it was not until 1977 that he went for his Novice license.

Born in Forest City Township, Iowa he went to school there. While growing up, he also lived in Kalama, Washington, a town forty miles north of Portland, Oregon. In 1948 he joined the U.S. Navy, and for nine years, he served as a gunner's mate aboard heavy cruisers and aircraft carriers. After his discharge, he came to this state and, for a time, he worked in the construction field. Now living in Franklin, he works as a maintenance supervisor tending machines at the Bird paper mill in Walpole.

Two years ago, Howard found enough time to get his Amateur Radio license. Nowadays, you will find him on fifteen meters. He uses Kenwood twins, a homebrew two element beam, plus a forty meter dipole. Besides ham radio, his other interest is bowling. □

## Hearabouts....

Rick Beebe, K1PAD, the Section Communications Manager of the Eastern Massachusetts section of the ARRL, has begun a section-wide newsletter to keep all Amateurs in eastern Massachusetts informed on activities in the section. Those of you who are currently ARRL members should have gotten a sample copy a few months ago. The newsletter should be very informative and would seem to be a very worthwhile investment at the price of the subscription, which is \$2.00 for a year, or \$1.50 for a club group of ten or more. WARS already has a group of ten, so if you would like to subscribe for \$1.50, see Jim Hatherley at the meetings, or send the extra money with your membership renewal. If you would like to subscribe directly, send \$2.00 to Rick Beebe, K1PAD, 82 Wyman Street, Billerica, Mass. 01821.

Congratulations to Carl Levine, WB1ECK, on recently upgrading his license to Amateur Extra class. Anyone else who has upgraded, please let the club know so that we can keep our records up to date. □

## Minutes

Meeting of September 20, 1979:

The new president, Bill Downing, WA1PQY, opened the meeting at 7:49 pm.

The minutes were read and accepted.

The business for the meeting was mainly concerned with the budget for 1979/80. The president went over each item on the projected expenses sheet, then opened the floor for debate. With few objections raised, a motion was seconded and approved to accept the budget as revised, plus to accept the dues at \$8.00

The club is to hold a flea market on October 13 at Wellesley Heathkit. The president asked for volunteers and Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, went over the details of the flea market.

The meeting closed at 8:52 pm.

-----  
Meeting of October 4, 1979:

The president being absent, the meeting was opened by Vice President Nels Anderson, K1UR, at 8:05 pm.

The minutes were read and accepted.

The treasurer being absent, no report was given.

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, gave a report on the station. He announced that construction had started for the new station in the basement.

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, gave a report on the Simulated Emergency Test.

Once again, volunteers were sought for the flea market.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm. □

## Executive Minutes

Meeting of September 19, 1979:

The meeting was opened at 7:43 pm by President Bill Downing, WA1PQY.

The meeting was taken up entirely with discussion of the club budget for 1979/80. The details of the budget were finalized for presentation to the general membership. The primary consideration was whether or not to raise the dues.

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm.



# The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: NEIS J. ANDERSON, K1UR  
32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6  
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$5. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
324 WASHINGTON STREET  
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Meeting of October 10, 1979:

The meeting was opened at 8:00 pm by President Bill Downing, WA1PQY.

Since work on the moving of the station is progressing very well, it was decided to notify the planning board that we will be out of the old upstairs club room by the end of October.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to final details of the flea market. □

## education corner



The fall novice class under the instruction of David Curry, K1TK, began on Wednesday, September 19th. The class will run through the fall and at the end will include the construction of a QRP rig for those interested. The classes are held weekly each Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. □

# hr REPORT

The Russians may launch one or two new Amateur Radio satellites before the end of the year, with transmitting downlink frequencies between 29.3 and 29.5 MHz, according to unsubstantiated reports reaching AMSAT. No real verification is available, and so we'll simply have to wait to see what happens.

hr Report, September 7, 1979

Point of sale control of Amateur Radio transmitting equipment was rejected again by the Commissioners at their agenda meeting Sept. 27, when they considered petitions for rule making filed by the San Antonio Repeater Organization (SARO) and two individual Amateurs. One of the petitioners proposed that the Commission require equipment sellers to record details of each owner's license for later FCC inspection, while another wanted equipment registered as well. The SARO petition wanted the FCC to license dealers as well as requiring proof of license.

In its rejection of the three petitions, the Commission noted that it has neither staff nor funds to enforce a record-keeping requirement, and licensing dealers would also be expensive. It further stated that Docket 21117, the linear amplifier ban, had already addressed a part of the problem of misuse of Amateur gear and it was considering additional means of limiting such abuses.

hr Report, October 5, 1979

Launching of the University of Surrey/AMSAT-UK UOSAT has been approved by NASA. The launch now is scheduled for mid-1981. Plans call for the inclusion of a synthesized telemetry system and a slow-scan TV camera on board the British OSCAR. The TV system will photograph cloud cover and the earth so that Amateurs can receive the pictures directly on their own equipment.

hr Report, October 5, 1979 □



# "Timeout!"

By Mike Adlerstein. K1FB

The Governor of Utah in a recent speech, referred to parts of his state as a "microwave oven" filled to overflowing with "radiation" hazardous to the health of the state's residents. What the governor was referring to was radioactivity resulting from accumulation of uranium ore. His was the common mistake of equating the hazards of nuclear radiation to that of microwave or electromagnetic waves.

It is an unfortunate mistake, all too common. In fact, there is a fundamental difference between radio waves and radioactivity. The difference lies in that radioactivity carries the ability to tear electrons permanently from the atoms and molecules of human cells, thereby perhaps altering the chemical composition of the cells. On the other hand, radio waves are not nearly energetic enough to have this effect (and hence are called "non-ionizing" radiation). Instead, radio waves can cause some heating to body tissues. In virtually all situations, the average Amateur radio operator is likely to encounter, there appears to be no cause for concern. Never-the-less, we as Amateurs, should be conscious of potential hazards to body tissue, such as portions of the eye where cooling by blood flow is limited. Further, we should take each opportunity to explain to the uninformed the difference in types of radiation.\* Indeed, the governor of Utah is living more nearly inside a nuclear reactor than inside a microwave oven!

\*An excellent reference on this subject appears in the September 1979 issue of Ham Radio Magazine, page 26. □

Two recent studies have concluded that microwave radiation is not dangerous to your health, as much of the press has been suggesting lately. One study by Johns Hopkins University researchers at the request of the State Department involved more than 2000 Americans who had worked at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The Soviet secret police were accused of beaming intensive

microwaves at the embassy for more than 20 years to intercept and interfere with embassy communications. The study found that the occurrences of vision loss, cancer and brain disorders suffered by embassy personnel was not unusually high.

Another study by the National Academy of Sciences involved 40,000 military personnel during the Korean War. Despite the fact that half had been involved with the repair of electronic equipment which resulted in the potential for large exposure to microwaves, the study found that this exposure had no adverse effects. □

## hr REPORT

"The French Atlantic Affair" will be presented by ABC-TV as a three-part mini-series on November 15, 16 and 18. The original story was written by Ernest Lehman, K6DXK, and features a ham who surreptitiously rigs up a shipboard antenna and helps save a hijacked passenger liner.

hr Report, September 28, 1979

Point of sale control of Amateur transmitting equipment is still alive at the Commission. It was on the Commissioners' meeting agenda for September 27.

hr Report, September 14, 1979 □

## Auctions / Flea Markets

November 11: Framingham A.R.C. indoor flea market. Rear of Framingham Police station. Set-up 9:00 a.m., doors open from 10:00 to 2:00. Food available, advance tables \$5, if any available at the door \$7.50. Talk-in 52 and 75/15. Rt. 9 to Rt. 126 southbound to Framingham center. Reservations and info via Box 3005, Framingham, Mass. 01701.

November 17: Honeywall/Waltham Radio club auction, 300 Concord Road, Billerica, Mass. Talk-in 04/64 and 72/12. Auction starts at 11:00, food available.

November 23: Middlesex ARC annual auction. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., auction starts at 7:30. Talk-in 96/36. Mason-Rice School, Newton Center, Ma. □



# UNDERSTANDING Auctions / Flea Markets

By Nels Anderson, K1UR

One aspect of Amateur Radio that it would appear many are not familiar with is the auction/flea market circuit, even though our club sponsors one of these events (two this year), and all local ones are printed in the Spark Gap each month. If you have never been to an auction or flea market, you are missing out on a fun aspect of Amateur radio. These events give you a good opportunity to see many pieces of radio gear and to purchase items often at bargain prices.

The spring and fall are the prime auction/flea market seasons, with one event nearby almost every weekend. Most of the items to be found are smaller accessories like power supplies, speakers, etc. but major items like HF transceivers are often available as well. If you are looking for a large item like a rig for yourself this can be a chance to get a bargain, especially on older equipment. On any major items, though, it's a good idea to test it out before buying to make sure it works as you want it to.

If you're looking for a specific item, it's a good idea to know something about it before you start. When you already are familiar with an item, it's a lot easier to make an intelligent purchase on the day of the auction/flea market. Knowing something about the original price of the item is especially important if you are looking for bargains. If the flea marketer or auction bidding demands a price close to that of a new item, pass it up; chances are someone else is selling one for a better price.

Flea markets and auctions each have their own different techniques that should be known by the perspective buyer. At the flea markets many of the sellers are really mini-dealers. After a few flea markets you'll start to recognize the same faces on the other side of the table. These people buy

and sell items regularly so they are pretty well up on the market. Thus you are unlikely to get anything from them really cheap, but their prices are still good and they have a large variety of items, especially parts, that are a lot cheaper than at the stores. At the flea markets you can usually dicker on the price of an item and more often than not get it for less than the original asking price. Also, many of the sellers drop their prices on items that don't sell right away, so if you're willing to risk missing something to get a better price, you just might make out by waiting around.

Buying at auctions is quite different. Before the selling starts, you should carefully examine the items you are interested in, as you really won't be able to see them once they're on the auction block. Once the bidding starts, the only thing to watch for is that you don't get carried away. Too often I've seen people pay ridiculously high prices for things at auctions. The only other technique the knowledgeable auction goer should be aware of is the difference between the big auctions and the smaller, less popular ones. If you're looking for a specific item, then you're better off going to the bigger auctions since the more people there are there, the better your chances of getting something are. For the real bargain hunter, however, the smaller auctions can be much better as there is much less competition to purchase an item. Often, there will be little or no interest in an item, and I have gotten some really nice things this way that I would not normally have bought (for example, the 2 meter collinear on my car which lists for over \$40 new was purchased for \$8).

The size factor is also important at flea markets though to a lesser extent. The dealers know the size of the audience affects demand, and so set their prices accordingly. The big flea markets tend to be really big, and so if you are set on finding something and price is of secondary importance, this is your best chance.

This is a basic rundown of the auction and flea market scene. With these points in mind, you should be all set to go out shopping for bargains. Good luck and happy hunting! □



# R.F. RADIATION

Is the Amateur Operator at Risk?

by Pete Bradley, N1ADX

**B**ack in June of this year the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry about the potential hazards of radio frequency radiation (General Docket 79-144). This followed publicity about microwaves at the Moscow embassy. Some U.S. towns have already tried to enact their own exposure limits (e.g. New York City has proposed a  $50 \text{ uW/cm}^2$  limit for frequencies above 10 MHz). If these laws were passed they would severely hamper day-to-day and emergency communications via Amateur Radio. However, public concern is mounting and Amateur Radio must rise to the challenge. The ARRL is forming a committee to examine the problem. The committee will reply to the FCC Notice and will collect information on the political, social, and technical aspects. They have a difficult task ahead. Scientific studies are too few and even the experts do not always agree. In this country the occupational standard for exposure to RF radiation is  $10 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ . This power density level can cause a 1 degree rise in the temperature of living tissues. On the other hand, in the U.S.S.R. the limit has been set at  $0.01 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ . In practise, 99% of Americans are exposed to less than  $0.001 \text{ mW/cm}^2$ , most of this coming from broadcast stations. The Amateur operator however, may be exposed to higher RF fields. In the June 1978 QST, N3NL shows how to calculate the field strengths near your antennas. Operations in the bands 1.8 to 30 MHz are generally considered to be safe. However, using more than minimal power on amateur bands from 2 meters and up requires a little more care.

If a person is exposed to very high doses of radiation, what effects could occur? For people who have lived close to power company transformers for a long time the 60 hz radiation may increase the incidence of childhood leukemia (Am. J. Epid. 109:273:1979). At VHF and UHF frequencies the bad ef-

fects seem to be related to heating of living tissues. As in a microwave oven the radiation causes heating by agitation of molecules. A 10 degree temperature rise in the eye can cause permanent cataract damage. Heating of the testes causes temporary sterility. Other information links cancer, heart disease and birth defects to microwave radiation. When rats are exposed to high levels of microwaves they behave very oddly. Until more detailed studies have been completed the issues will continue to be confused. In the meanwhile, WA2UMY suggests the following common-sense approach (Ham Radio, September 1979): If you are pregnant you should avoid strong RF fields. No one should look into a microwave antenna. Keep high frequency high power antennas more than 10 feet away from any people. These recommendations may change when future studies have been completed. So if in doubt, mount your VHF/UHF antennas as far as possible from the shack and any living areas of your home. □

## ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST

By Nels Anderson, K1UR

**T**he weekend of June 9 and 10 marked the second participation of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society in the ARRL's June VHF contest. This year we were a bit better equipped due to some new purchases by club members. Also, well known VHF/UHFer W100P accompanied us on our excursion and provided equipment for three of the higher bands.

Once again our operation took place on 3800 foot Mt. Equinox in south-western Vermont, only this year we were right at the top instead of at Little Equinox which is several hundred feet lower. This site provides good access to most of New England, as well as New York. Although it didn't rain, we spent most of the weekend inside a cloud. Often visibility was so poor that the antennas could not be seen from the ground even though they were no more than 30 feet up! The humidity of the air caused problems with our new 2 meter array (a bay of four 8 element quagis) as some of the glue let go, but otherwise we managed to get by.

Equipment was available for 50, 144,



432, 1296 and 2304 MHz. On 6 the gear was a Yaesu multi-mode rig and modified Heath SB-200, and on 2 there was a choice of three different multi-mode rigs (a Kenwood, Icom and KLM), plus a 140 watt amplifier. For the higher bands, gear consisted of home brew and modified commercial gear from W100P. A variety of modules provided access to one of the three bands at a time.

In addition to the 2 meter array, antennas were a 3 element yagi for 6 and a four foot parabolic dish for 1296 and 2304. Initially no antenna was available for 432, but with gear available we could not pass up the chance for a few easy contacts, so a small quagi was assembled using scraps of wire, a wooden tent pole, and lots of black tape in the best of amateur tradition!

Though we won no awards for our efforts, our score was much better than the previous year with 352 contacts on the five bands. Murphy didn't strike equipment-wise, but in propagation he played a good trick on us by keeping the bands closed until late Sunday night when we had already started the long trip home. Thus with better conditions there is still plenty of room for improvement in our score.

In addition to the contest we helped another group with communications for a vintage car hill climb which also took place on the mountain that weekend. People were provided for several checkpoints along the five mile course providing an interesting break from the contest.

All in all, a very successful and enjoyable weekend was enjoyed by all up in the clouds on Mt. Equinox. □

## First District QSL Bureau

by Jeffrey J. Duquette, K1BE

**H**ow would you like to receive over 20,000 QSL cards in one month? The Holden County Radio Association does! They are the incoming DX QSL bureau for all of New England. The ARRL, overseas bureaus, and individual hams fill the mailbags every month. The

HCRA has been the bureau for the past eleven years. They've been very fortunate to have Eleanore Gray as Manager for the past six years. Let's look at the bureau and how it operates.

Thousands of cards are sorted each month by first letter suffix. Individual club members handle different letter groups. For example cards for WB1CJH, W1CJK, and K1CAL would all go to the "C" sorter. There they are sorted again, and if you've got envelopes on file, sent out to you. No envelope(s) on file? Well, your cards go into the "dead file", awaiting their rescue. More about the dead file later. The Bureau is a volunteer effort. A great deal of time is donated by these unsung Amateurs. The system may be slow at times, but has the advantage of being very inexpensive in our inflationary times!

People still write and ask, "What do I have to do to use the bureau?" Every other QST explains it. File a large (6 x 10 inch) self-addressed envelope with your call sign in big block letters in the upper-left hand corner. Affix postage and you're in business! These envelopes will be mailed out as they fill up with cards. Do you work lots of DX? File five or six envelopes.

What are the glitches that slow the Bureau down? Number one deadweight is the file of unclaimed cards. One ham had seven pounds of QSLs he didn't want! Notices are sent out with the hope the owners will respond. Every January the dead file is emptied. Some sorters need a truck to get the cards to the dump. If you don't want the cards, let us know. We appreciate it. Another snag is the small envelope with \$1.00 worth of stamps on it. Have you ever tried to stuff a "DL" QSL into a 2 x 5 envelope? It won't make it! The opposite of this problem is the envelope big enough to mail an elephant, with one 15¢ stamp attached. (We won't discuss all the envelopes with 13¢ stamps; the sorter puts that extra 2¢ stamp on out of their own pocket.) The best way to file is a good sized envelope with extra postage paper-clipped to it. If a need for postage arises, it's right there.

How many people reading this will upgrade soon? A lot, judging by the



mail. Cross-filing for different call signs doesn't work! Keep an envelope on file for every call you've had! For example, my old call was WA1SNJ and is now K1BE. I've got envelopes waiting for QSL's with the "S" and the "B" sorter.

The Hampden County Radio Association is an active radio club. We're proud to be the incoming QSL bureau. We're here to assist you. We'll answer your questions and can tell you if you've got cards on file. Always write, don't telephone the people in the bureau. Our address is: P.O. Box 216, Forest Park Station, Springfield, Massachusetts 01108. □

## ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

Wanted--General Coverage Receiver, through 30 MHz. Age is not important as long as it receives in CW, SSB, and AM. Please call George, WB1FEE, at 444-3808.

For Sale--Heathkit HW-101 with CW filter and HP-23B power supply. \$370.00. Call Bob, W1MXI, at 484-0950. □

## hr REPORT

ASCII was accepted, paving the way for its use by Amateurs in the near future, at the Commission's meeting in Washington on Wednesday. After considerable discussion, the Commissioners agreed to let Amateurs use ASCII for RTTY and instructed the staff to prepare rules for its implementation. During the discussion identification of Amateur stations operating on RTTY was a key issue, and the present requirement that RTTY users must identify using CW--a sore point that's been the subject of a number of Petitions for Rule Making--was the telling argument in getting the Commissioners to agree on the ASCII OK.

Other possible RTTY modes were also considered at the meeting, but it was decided that they should be discussed separately in a future Notice of Pro-

posed Rule Making. If the necessary rule changes can be prepared and approved by the Commission, ASCII could be heard on the U.S. Amateur bands by year's end.

hr Report, October 12, 1979

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The DaVinci Trans-America balloon made it only as far as the western edge of Ohio before bad weather forced it down, and Amateur Radio provided much of the communications for its 130 plus hour trek. Breakdown and unreliable operation of the communications and aircraft band radios relatively soon after liftoff from western Oregon shifted the communications burden to the Amateur bands, but well disciplined nets on 21.440 and 7.285 MHz plus 2 meter FM proved adequate for most of the four balloonists' needs.

KØLIS/Balloon Mobile spent quite a bit of time on the air during the first few days, passing out contacts to eager listeners when he wasn't busy with weather bureau or other trip traffic. The signal from his TS-120S and Hustler antenna was very good at all times, though copy was sometimes difficult because Fred wore an oxygen mask when the balloon was above 12,000 feet.

Despite wind shift delays over the weekend, the goal of the first non-stop transcontinental balloon flight still seemed to be within reach when weather over Indiana began deteriorating. Amateurs relayed Weather Bureau radar fixes on storm cells and upper level wind details to the balloon, but by 11:00 pm EDT October 1, Fred was reporting snow, sleet, rain, and lightning from all directions.

Unable to maintain altitude due to water loading, the balloon finally touched down near Van Wert, Ohio about 12:20 am. W8ILC reports the Van Wert and Dayton repeaters linked to provide 2 meter FM communications for police and news-crew searchers, and about 1:00 am the gondola was located in a soybean field with only one severe injury, a broken leg, in the crew. KØLIS, an M.D. as well as an Amateur, was treating that injury when rescuers arrived.

hr Report, October 5, 1979 □



# hr REPORT

The 1979 WARC (World Administrative Radio Conference) opened in Geneva, Switzerland on Monday, September 24. This much discussed meeting will shape the radio world into the 21st century. The opening was marred when a deadlock was reached on the conference chairman selection. The conference could not begin its business until a chairman was elected, and so began almost a week behind schedule since it was not until Thursday, September 27 that a compromise chairman was elected. The cause of this problem was the conflict between the nonaligned and the developed nations, which is expected to be present throughout the meeting, with the smaller countries taking a firm stand on the issues. Since these nations make up the majority of members at the meeting, and consequently the majority of the votes, their position can not be taken lightly.

The first items being reported out of the committee concerning Amateur Radio concern CW as an international licensing requirement, and band changes. The U.S. proposal to change CW to only a recommendation for Amateur licensing was only supported by Japan and Canada and was defeated in committee. Also the 1215-1300 MHz band was reduced to 1240-1300. None of the committee decisions are final as they can still be modified before the final report.

-----  
U.S. Amateur population dropped during July for the first time in five years, with the operator total at the month's end down 100 from the all-time high of 365,985 a month earlier. Most significant is that the falloff comes entirely from a drop of 700 in the Novice class, which would have been expected to have more than held its own due to the recent extension of the Novice license to five years, renewable.

This trend has been developing for some months, with the rate of growth (averaged over the year preceding) dropping from 8.1% in January down to 5.5% in July.

FCC Chairman Ferris, California Rep. James Corman, ARRL General Council Bob Booth, and California attorney Joe Merdler, N6AHU, will meet in Washington September 16 to discuss the problem of jamming in the Amateur bands. Principal purpose of the meeting is to brief the Commission's chairman on the nature and magnitude of the jamming problem, and to solicit his aid in finding a solution for it. While in Washington, N6AHU, who's also president of the Personal Communications Foundation, will also bring Bob Booth up to date on the PCF's current programs. Included are implementation of some law school studies on subjects relating to the legal problems of Amateur radio.

hr Report, September 7, 1979

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT:

Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 235-4484

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 323-5029

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, 384-8056

### RECORDING SECRETARY:

George Young, WA1YAU, 237-2082

### TREASURER:

Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, 254-6042

### OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Joe McGrath, WA1JIR, 435-6893

### FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341

### EDUCATION:

Dick Magnanti, WB1BUQ, 235-6371

### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:

Don Chesley, WA1HVS, 655-5211

### STATION MANAGER:

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074

### EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

### TRUSTEE:

Lud Fasolino, K1LF, 237-0316

### REPEATER COMMITTEE:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 235-4484

Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, 235-1599

Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074



# The Spark Gap

**WELLESLEY  
AMATEUR RADIO  
SOCIETY**

324 Washington Street  
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**